

T H E  
H I S T O R Y  
O F T H E  
Seven Champions  
O F  
C H R I S T E N D O M .

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P A R T the S E C O N D .

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Printed and Sold in Aldermary Church,  
Yard, London.



The Second Part of the  
**Seven Champions**  
*of Christendom.*



C H A P. I.

Sabra delivered of three Sons, her unfortunate Death ; and the Champions Journey to Jerusalem.

**A**Bout a year after St. George and Sabra had been married, she was delivered of three sons, who were all soon after christened ; one was named Guy, another Alexander, and the other David, who were about eighteen years old when Sabra unfortunately died in the following manner.— A hunting-match was proposed, and Sabra being willing to see how active her sons were at that sport, went along with them ; and just as the chase began a stag roused, and Sabra being willing to keep pace with the rest, but

straining her horse too much, he threw her with such force that she died on the spot, after having recommended her sons very affectionately to the care of their father.—This occasioned great grief to all the Champions, especially St. George, who was almost inconsolable ; but however discovered as little of it as possibly he could.—After the funeral was over, St. George vowed to go to Jerusalem barefooted, to expiate his sins, and to appease the ghost of his Lady, by whose unlucky hunting-match she lost life. This resolution being made known to the other Champions, they for the love they bore him, resolved to accompany him ; which he would not let them, as they might be otherways useful ; and so embracing them, and recommending them to the King's care, he departed ; in which long and painful journey I shall leave him, and return to his sons.

These were left to mourn over their mothers tomb, in which they so contended who should exceed the others in sorrow, that they agreed, That he who should bring the rarest present, and offer

at her monument, should be counted as chief mourner.

To this end Guy repaired to an enchantress, who for a great reward, though it was the depth of winter, sent her spirit to fetch all sorts of fragrant flowers, which she made up like a garland, and so enchanted that they could not fade.

Alexander brought a silver lute, which he hung so advantageously, that at every breathing of the wind it would tune melodiously, without being touched.

David came last, attired in white silver robes, with a silver bason and poniard in his hand, and opening his bosom, pricked his tender flesh, and let out thirty drops of his blood, which he offered upon the tomb, to express his affections to his dead mother; so that his brothers concluding he had got the glory from them, fell on him with violent hands; and immediately the tomb flew open, and the ghost of their mother appeared, charging them to forbear, and hasten to the Holy Land to rescue their father, who was in danger of his life; and immediately vanished, and the tomb closed.

This unexpected sight struck them with



great horror ; and they swore to live in perfect unity. And remembering what was told them concerning their father, begged leave of the King to go. To this with much entreaty, she consent, and thereupon he set out.

As they were going through a wood, in Provinces, in France, they heard the cries of a lady in distress, and immediately dismounted ; when on going forward, they saw a beautiful lady tied by her hair



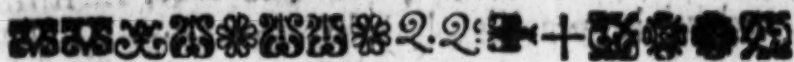
to a tree, and three cruel Moors standing round her ; these they killed, and released the lady, who returning them many thanks, telling them, Her father was the Duke of Normandy, whose country had been taken from him by the French

king, and that they come for shelter into the woods, where they got a little hut, and lived peaceably till these Moors came to steal venison, and found out their hut, and then bound her father and took her away.

Here they proceeded towards a little cottage, where the Duke was bound to a tree. He seeing his daughter return with such company, conceived the best, and immediately died for Joy, which occasioned more grief to her. After they had buried the old Duke, they would have perswaded her to go with them, but she would not, Saying, She was resolved to stay and mourn over her father for twelve months.

Hereupon the young knights took their leave, and proceeded on their journey, where we shall leave them, and look after the Seven Champions.

**CHAP.**



## C H A P, II.

St. George kills a Giant, and arrives at the Holy Sepulchre.

**T**HE Seven Champions after many a weary step, arrived at Damascus, where it growing near evening, and they perceiving on a large plain a very stately building, went to it to enquire for entertainment,

Upon their approach they saw a bell, which they rang, and immediately an old grave man came and welcomed them ; and after giving them some refreshment, he told them, He had once twenty sons, who were skilled in all rare workmanship. but through the villainy of one who lived near, he had lost fourteen of them ; six only remaining with him. At this he called them out of a closet from whence they came playing with silver lutes, with such melody, as charmed the Champions.—This, and the melancholy story, moved the Champions to pity him, resolving they would be revenged upon his enemy. Therefore, on promise of secre-

cy they discovered, and was well furnished with warlike habiliments out of his armoury, each one taking what he liked best ; and then proceeded towards the house of his enemy, who was a Giant,



St. Dennis encountered him first, who was soon taken prisoner, as were the five others ; but St. George, who judged at the reason of their ill luck, took a large iron bar, sharp at one end, and so went towards the Giant ; and after a bloody battle brought him to the ground. So leaving him there to expire, he went and released several prisoners, to their great joy, but more exceedingly to the old man when he saw his sons return in safety ; on which he embraced St. George, calling him the most accomplished Knight in the



world, and being restored to his castle and estate, he bestowed many rich presents on them, and so they departed.

They then proceeded to Jerusalem, and immediately went to the Holy Sepulchre, where, when they were kneeling, they heard a musical voice, which spoke these words :

Rise noble champions, linger here no more,  
Your arms the world requires, depart therefore,  
By mighty deeds, endless to crown your name,  
And write your deeds in golden characters of  
Fame ;

And you chaste virgins that do here reside,  
Horses and armour must for them provide.

This was no sooner 'over, but some virgins, who watched the Sepulchre, led them to a place in the side of the mountain, where was armour and horses suitable to their quality. Being armed they rode out of the city in search of adventures.

As they was going through the wildernesses of Arabia, they began to be faint with hunger, and wish that they had brought provision instead of gold. However, as they were going along they perceived some smoke, towards which they

went, resolving to be guests, whether welcome or not. St. George rode before, and coming to demand succour, a Giant came out, and seeing but one Knight, he thought to crush him with his fist, but St. George sat him with such fury that he felled him before the others came up, which when they d d, they went into the castle, where they found great store of provisions, and having refreshed themselves they departed in search of other adventures.



### C H A P. III.

The Seven Champions lulled to sleep by the Knight of the Black Castle.

**T**HE Champion's leaving the Giant's cave, passed over several mountains and espied a pavillion, to which they rid, and found a reverend old man sitting in a melancholy posture, and the body of a dead virgin very cruelly mangled, lying by him. So they alighted to enquire into the meaning, to which end they all went up to the old man, who received them very courteously, and after they had

rested themselves they asked the reason of it, to which he answered in this manner, I am, said he. Lord of all these plains, and though my profession is but a shepherd, yet providence had so blessed me industry, that I have large possessions, and above all, I was happy in two chaste and beautiful daughters ; who now by cruel means, are in the cold embraces of death ; and here, said he, you see one of them murdered before your eyes.

At this the Champions fetched a sigh, and entreated him to give them an account of the authors of his misery, and if it was possible they would revenge his cause ; on which the old man told them, That not far from thence lived one Leogar, stiling himself a Knight, of a lustful disposition, as will appear : For falling in love with my eldest daughter, and I not knowing his temper, consented to the match, and they were married ; but his mind being unsettled, and having reaped the pleasures of love, he fell in love with my youngest. Once in a kind manner, he invited her to see her sister ; as they was going through a wood, he began to tell his passion to her, which she rejecting

with abhorrence, he stripped her, gained his will, and then strangled her. But her little page, who had undiscovered seen these actions, ran to my eldest daughter, and told her; whereupon she went to the chamber of her disloyal husband, who by this time was come home, and after reproaching him for his inconstancy, made at him with a dagger, but missing her aim she killed her infant and then herself. — This news soon reached my ears, upon which I fetched the body of my youngest daughter, and inshrined it.

At this relation the Seven Champions were greatly incensed against the knight of the Black Castle, and having rode about ten miles they came in sight of the castle, but the access to it was difficult, there being a deep moore round it, and the draw-bridge up; for the knight fearing revenge would be sought for the murdered innocents, had leagued with a Necromancer to fortify his castle, near which stood a marble pillar, with a silver trumpet, with these words engraved on it:

He that this trumpet sounds will percieve  
strait,

The draw-bridge fall, and open fly the gate.



St. George after reading this, put the instrument to his mouth, and sounded it,



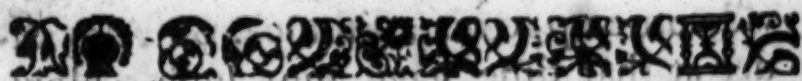
whereupon the bridge immediately fell down, and the gate flew open. So tying their horses at the foot of the bridge, they boldly marched on; but scarce were they entered before a great darkness made 'em scarce know where they were; however going down a pair of stairs, they saw the Knight, the Necromancer, and several Giants standing on the battlements, whom they challenged to come down and fight in the court-yard.

Leogar sent twelve giants to kill them, or take them prisoners, so that between them was a dreadful fight; but it ended in favour of the Champions, which made Leogar storm exceedingly, and was going

to throw himself over the battlements had not the Necromancer told him, His art should accomplish, what strength could not.—He caused them to think they saw five or six more giants running into the castle, and thinking that by following them they might come at Leogar, they run after them, but no sooner entered the castle, then they fell together into a dungeon paved with dead men bones.

This surprised them vastly, and searching about for a place to get out, they saw a stately bed, upon which all but St. George sat down to rest themselves. They no sooner sat down than a deep sleep overcame them; for such was the enchantment of this bed, that they could not be waked, so that St. George was left by himself. — At this time the magician descended in a frightful shape, threatening St. George with a terrible death: but his menaces frightened him not, for had not the conjuror vanished he had at one blow cut off his head. This monster was no sooner gone, but another more terrible came, with whom St. George had a combat, but at last killed him; after this he was no more troubled, only at being con-

fin'd, where we will leave him at present and return to his Sons.



# CHAP. IV.

## The Travels of St. George's Sons.

THE sons of St. George, in pursuance of their design, resolv'd to pursue knightly adventures, and find out their father.—Therefore, after they had parted with the Duke of Normandy's daughter, as before cited, they went on board a Sicillian vessel, and in a short time arriv'd at Sicilly, and travelling about they found a great number of towns without any people in them.

This surpris'd them much, but going on, they heard a vast noise, and having rode a little way their horses began to jump: and looking about they saw a monster approach them with claws like an eagle, and eyes like flaming fire.

Sir Guy first approach'd this monster and struck him with his spear, but his scales being as hard as brass, shiver'd it in pieces, so that he was oblig'd to as-





fault him with his scymetar, but the creature raised himself on a sudden, and had certainly destroyed him, had not Sir David come up to his assistance. Sir Alexander at that time, gave him such a blow, as made him stagger, on which Sir Guy thrust his sword down his throat, and so ended his life.



The young Knights left his carcase on the ground, approaching farther into the town, and perceived a hermit passing along, to whom they rode up, and he told them that the country they had come through was deserted upon account of a beast whom they called Mongo.

The hermit no sooner ended his discourse, but they told him he was destroyed, which joy almost overcame him; and

just at that time a herald passed by, with four Knights, who were going to proclaim in all foreign realms, That if any person should overcome this monster, he should be made a peer of the realm, and have a golden helmet for his reward.

The young Knights told them their search was at an end, for they had destroyed him; whereupon the herald went to tell the King; who came out to view the carcase of the beast; and afterwards he entertained them very gallantly, and having given them each a silver helmet, they departed in search of other knightly adventures.





## C H A P. V.

The Sons of St. George meet with the Queen of Armenia; and of their releasing the Seven Champions.



**T**HE young Knights being still upon their enquiry, and hearing nothing of their father nor the other champions, concluded some mishap had befallen them; but travelling through a wood they heard a Lady woefully complaining about the Knight of the Black Castle to her daughter, who was standing before her; and going up to them, they found she had been the Queen of Armenia, but was banished by her subjects into the woods for

yielded to the embraces of that Knight, by whom she was forsaken after she was delivered.

The young Knights were highly incensed against the Knight, when they had heard her story; and the Queen, after giving a letter to her daughter to deliver to the Knight of the Black Castle, she died.

After she was buried, they went to the castle, where Rosanna, for such was her name, saw her wicked father and the magician looking over the battlements, contriving to destroy them; however, Sir Guy blew the trumpet, and immediately the draw-bridge fell down and they entered, but were not gone far before they saw this inscription on a pillar of jasper:

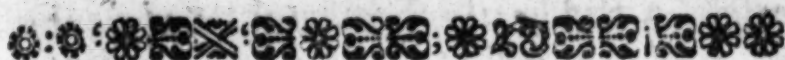
While here seven fatal lamps burn bright,  
This place shall never yield to Knight;  
But when extinguish'd by a fountain clear  
By her who does a rose on her breast wear,  
The strange enchantment then shall disappear.

They then perceived a Giant and pursued him into a hall, where the seven lamps were burning, and where a fierce combat was fought, but in the end they



slew the giant, and tried to extinguish the lamps, though in vain. At last remembering the inscription, Rosanna took one of their shields, and fetched some water out of a fountain which they heard bubbling, and put out the lamps. — Immediately the enchantment ended, the Seven Champions awaked, and rejoiced to find St. George their deliverer. — Leogar finding the enchantment ended, escaped upon a swift horse ; and the Necromancer took his flight on winged spirits. Rosanna, after leaving the Champion, went in search of her father, whom she found in a neighbouring village ; and he, having read the letter which his daughter brought him, died instantly ; whereupon she stabbed herself. — The Seven Champions went to the old shepherd, and having put him in possession of the castle, they departed for their own countries. — An account of their deaths may be found in the next chapter.





## C H A P. VI.

Of the violent Deaths of all the Seven  
Champions.

**T**H E first that left this life was St. Patrick, who caused a house of square stone to be built within a wood in Ireland, out of which he never went, though he lived three years, but had his victuals given him through a hole, and a little time before his death, he digg'd his own grave with his nails, and resigned his pious breath ; in memory of whom the Irish annually wear a Red Cross.

St. David coming into Wales, and finding it overrun with Saxons, mustered a troop of his friends, and that they might the better distinguish themselves, he ordered them to imitate him, whereupon he plucked a leek, and placed it upon his helmet, so that having drawn the enemy from the mountains to the plains, a fierce fight ensued, in which St. David obtained a compleat victory ; but over sweating

himself in the battle, he caught a violent cold, which occasioned his death. And on his death-bed he desired all his countrymen to wear a leak every first day of March, that being the day on which he won the victory,

St. Dennis the Champion of France, living a godly life in the country, so incensed the King, that he commanded him to be beheaded; which no sooner was done, but he rose up and walked three quarters of a mile. Which miracle so terrified the King, that he embraced the Christian religion, had St. Dennis fainted, and a stately church built where he died, also little altars or praying places at each part of the road, where he stopped, which are standing at this time.

St. James, at his return to Spain had a chapel built, and getting several devout Christians together, they sung psalms which so incensed the King that he ordered them to be shut up, so that they were starved to death; yet such light and harmony were seen and heard in the place after their death, that all men wondered: And God's Judgments delayed not long to fall on the King, for losing his appetite,

he pined to death. St. James was afterwards fainted, on account of these miracles.

St. Andrew, preaching the gospel in Scotland, among the Highlanders, they fancied he was sent as a spy, and so they dragged him to a cross made of two trees, and while he was praying for them they cut off his head. The King hearing this, he went against them with a strong force, and destroyed them. This Saint Andrew is held the Patron of Scotland, and the Scots wear a Cross on that day ; he was soon fainted, and a church dedicated to him.

St. Anthony preaching to the people at Rome, and not being minded by the people, he desired some of them to follow him, which they did, and he went down to the sea-side, where he preached to the fish, and such numbers came round him, as convinced the people of the truth of the Christian religion ; whereupon he baptized them ; and viewing the chapel, he found a prophecy that himself should die there, which he so far complied with that he continued there till he died, having provisions sent him. Soon after his



death, he was fainted, and that chapel dedicated to him.

St. George, the worthy Champion of England, lived a most penitent life. At last, being informed of a Dragon living on Dunsmore Heath, which hurt the inhabitants both far and near. St. George determined to destroy it, and accordingly did; but the quantity of poison thrown on him by the Dragon, seized on his vital spirits, and put an end to his most precious life.

F I N I S.





